

A decade later ...

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Abstract: A brief overview (both retrospective and prospective) of the journal *Ágora. Estudos Clássicos em Debate*.

Keywords: *Ágora*. Estudos Clássicos em Debate; past; future.

Full of dreams, we embarked ten years ago on the adventure of publishing a journal of Classical Studies — *Ágora. Estudos Clássicos em Debate* (*Ágora. Classical Studies in Debate*) — which would, as we then wrote, “have a wide remit being open to any themes related to classical studies ranging from the origins of Greek and Latin literature and culture to the reactions that these literatures and cultures continue to have in present day western civilisations”².

We were (and continue to be) a small group from the Department of Languages and Cultures at the University of Aveiro, who, at the time were fully involved with Classical Studies, but today, due to force of circumstances, only have limited opportunities to teach subjects directly linked to this area.

We wanted to be one more active voice in Classical Studies in Portugal, but we did not intend to limit ourselves to our country. Our ambition was to widen our horizons and to work together with an enlarged group of people from all over the world.

We had, naturally, the ambition of making our journal known to all classicists and for it to become a reference in Classical Studies. Throughout these ten years, we have sought to consolidate our path. To cement our position we chose certain options, starting with having abstracts and key words in four languages (Portuguese, English, French and Spanish). In addition we were determined that the journal should

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² João Manuel Nunes Torrão, “Pórtico”: *Ágora. Estudos Clássicos em Debate* 1 (1999) 9.

always come out on time, always being available in the first half of the year in question. We accepted and sought external collaboration (25 articles from other Portuguese universities, 9 articles of Brazilian origin, 20 articles from Spain and one from Argentina, not including those from the current edition) and we looked for some linguistic diversity (3 articles in French and 24 in Spanish). We decided to make the texts available online (initially after less than a year, and at a later stage, due to the good reactions, almost immediately). Finally we tried to get the journal referenced in such a way as to permit us to verify its quality (first the *Latindex*³, where we remain, then the *Scielo*⁴, where we had to suspend our participation for technical reasons related to Greek characters, and finally in *Arts and Humanities Citation Index of the ISI WEB of Knowledge*⁵).

Thanks to our decision to make the texts available online, the Journal is referred to and is directly accessible via a considerable number of Internet pages in the area of Classical Studies and academic journals spread throughout the world (South Africa, Germany, Brazil, Denmark, Spain, the United States, France, Indonesia, United Kingdom, Italy, Mexico, Romania, Russia and Sweden among others).

A decade on, we can therefore, say that we have a clean conscience. In truth we have accomplished our objectives and have clearly surpassed some of our most optimistic perspectives.

Nevertheless we cannot keep looking to the past, however good it has been. What matters is to continue looking to the future in order to get better and better. For now, this future consists of two large aims; to consolidate the position that we have achieved, and to keep enlarging our level of influence. In order to do that we are going to maintain and perfect our level of quality and have a measured expansion of our English language output. This will be done at two levels; by accepting articles written in this language and, starting with the next edition, by translating

³ <http://www.latindex.org/larga.php?opcion=1&folio=11886>

⁴ <http://www.scielo.oces.mctes.pt/>

⁵ http://apps.isiknowledge.com/summary.do?qid=1&product=UA&SID=Y1G9inoj%402eNmE14Bpe&search_mode=GeneralSearch

some of the articles into English which would otherwise have been published in Portuguese.

This choice does not even minimally detract from our determined defence of the growing importance of Portuguese as a language of international academic communication, to the extent that we have opposed some recent positions taken by European institutions that, in classifying the top journals, have excluded those mainly published in Portuguese.

So, in the case of translated articles, the English version will be accompanied by the Portuguese version.

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Resumo: Breve visão retrospectiva e prospectiva da revista *Ágora. Estudos Clássicos em Debate*.

Palavras-chave: *Ágora. Estudos Clássicos em Debate*; passado; futuro.

Resumen: Breve visión (retrospectiva y prospectiva) de la revista *Ágora. Estudos Clássicos em Debate*.

Palabras clave: *Ágora. Estudos Clássicos em Debate*; pasado; futuro.

Résumé: Vision brève (rétrospective et prospective) de la revue *Ágora. Estudos Clássicos em Debate*.

Mots-clé: *Ágora. Estudos Clássicos em Debate*; passé; futur.